



Martin O'Malley,
Mayor

Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Program



George L. Winfield,
Director

In May of 2004, the State of Maryland implemented the Bay Restoration Fee, known to many as the “flush tax”, to establish a dedicated fund to upgrade Maryland’s Wastewater Treatment Plants. This fund, supported by an additional \$2.50 a month fee on sewer bills, or an equivalent of \$7.50 per quarter or \$30 per year, will generate revenue and allow for improvements to the quality of water going into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Bureau of Water and Wastewater, in compliance with Maryland State law, has established a Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Program to help alleviate the financial burden of this new fee. Baltimore City residential customers that demonstrate substantial financial hardship can be exempted from this fee, providing specific criteria are met and proper documentation is provided.

The Bureau of Water and Wastewater’s Revenue Measurement and Billing office will accept and review applications from *Baltimore City* residents for the Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption program. If you would like to apply, or have questions concerning the exemption criteria, please contact the Bureau of Water and Wastewater’s Revenue Measurement and Billing office at [410-396-5533](tel:410-396-5533). There are no guaranteed approvals, only applicants meeting the minimum qualifications will receive approval for the Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption.

***Please be advised, the Hardship Exemption is only good for one year.
All applicants must re-apply each year.***

Applicants must meet the following criteria and must be able to provide the required documents:

Applicant must meet <u>at least two</u> of the following conditions:	Required supporting documents for eligibility determination:																
<div data-bbox="203 1129 808 1323"> <p>(A) Receiving energy assistance subsidy.</p> <p>(B) Receiving public assistance - Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or food stamps.</p> <p>(C) Receiving veterans or social security disability benefits.</p> <p>(D) Meeting the gross income criteria below:</p> </div> <table border="1" data-bbox="212 1392 808 1824"> <thead> <tr> <th>Household Size</th><th>(2004 - 2005)* Monthly Income is less than:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>\$1,194</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>\$1,561</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>\$1,959</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>\$2,356</td></tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>\$2,754</td></tr> <tr> <td>6</td><td>\$3,151</td></tr> <tr> <td>Additional Persons</td><td>Add \$398 each</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Household Size	(2004 - 2005)* Monthly Income is less than:	1	\$1,194	2	\$1,561	3	\$1,959	4	\$2,356	5	\$2,754	6	\$3,151	Additional Persons	Add \$398 each	<div data-bbox="849 1129 1461 1417"> <p>(A) Current enrollment verification in energy assistance subsidy.</p> <p>(B) Current enrollment verification of medical assistance, food stamps, or other public assistance program.</p> <p>(C) Verification of eligibility for veterans/social security disability benefits.</p> <p>(D) Proof of household gross income received in the 30 days prior to the date of application.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="849 1480 1461 1816"> <p>In addition to the above documentation, <u>all</u> applicants must also provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of identification and proof of residency. • Copy of landlord/tenant lease agreement indicating tenant responsibility for water/sewer charges. • Copy of most recent water/sewer bill. </div>
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* Source: Maryland Department of Human Resources/Offices of Home Energy Programs
(www.dhr.state.md.us/meap/index.htm)